MIT's Oldest and Largest Newspaper

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The Tech

Established 1881

Volume 136, Number 16

Friday, June 3, 2016

WEATHER, p. 2

FRI: 75°F | 64°F
Chance showers

SAT: 80°F | 64°F
Mostly sunny

SUN: 69°F | 61°F
Rain

New House's HVAC, pipes to be assessed before a plan is final

It is still unclear if the building will be demolished or will be renovated

By Karleigh Moore
EDITOR

MIT will assess corroded pipes and problems with heating, ventilation, and air conditioning system in New House before making a decision about whether to renovate or demolish the dorm.

Right now, MIT is conducting a cost analysis of both options, and expects to have more information about next steps early this fall. The Building Committee will consider the results of these analyses as it makes recommendation to the Executive Committee of the Corporation.

"Once a final decision is made about New House and a larger vision for West Campus is complete, we will inform the community," Chancellor Barnhart PhD '88 said in an email to The Tech.

On May 8, Chancellor Barnhart, Director of Special Projects (in the Chancellor's Office) Jag Patel, Executive Director for Administration Peter Cummings, and Head of House Wesley Harris met with New House residents to address questions about the future of the dorm. They stressed that it is "premature at this time to predict the long-term disposition of New House, potential timelines for renovation or replacement, the effect of closing New House on other residences, or the design of a possible replacement residence hall."

Chancellor Barnhart emphasized that students will be involved in the design process for the residence hall and its programming as well as any relocations that may be needed during construction.

"We are committed to working with students throughout the entire campus renewal process," Barnhart said.

Plans for New House's future will not affect the timeline for a new dorm projected to open on West Campus in 2019, Matthew Bauer, Director of Communications in the Division of Student Life, said in an email to The Tech.

Bauer advised current residents not to let concerns about future construction on New House discourage them from recruiting freshmen. He urged them to continue advertising their "extraordinary community" and said that DSL "will offer support for these outreach efforts."

ALEXANDER C. BOST — THE TECH

Doctoral candidates take a selfie during the Investiture of Doctoral Degree Hoods on Thursday morning.

FEATURE

MIT's international olympians

By Burhan Azeem and Drew Bent

Like clockwork, Valentino flew every month from his rural home to the capital city of Jakarta, Indonesia to study and compete. He was a fierce competitor and a diplomat, representing his country on the international stage against nine competitors. Valentino was in elementary school.

He would later become a gold medalist in the International Biology Olympiad.

Valentino Sudaryo '19 is like a number of international students who came to MIT after—or maybe, because of—the role they played in representing their countries at the highest levels in academic competitions in high school. These students are often national heroes, yet they roam the MIT corridors like every other undergraduate.

The road to MIT for any international student is an incredibly challenging one. Each year, the number of international students applying to MIT for an undergraduate education is roughly enough to fill the entire student body.

This year, 4,299 people applied from abroad, yet only 132 were admitted, according to the Dean of MIT Admissions, Stu Schmill '86. This admit rate of 3.1 percent for international students is significantly lower than the 7.8 percent statistic for the entire student body.

One curious observation is that a significant number of these accepted international students participated in olympiads back in high school. While the MIT admissions office does not have numbers read-

Olympians, Page 6

Pageant, parade, and parties mark the centennial of Cambridge campus

Oliver Smoot, whose height measures Harvard Bridge, present

By Drew Bent
CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

On Saturday, May 7, with final exams approaching, the MIT community did something unexpected: it celebrated. The celebration was uniquely MIT and included a parade led by the famous Oliver Smoot '62 (after which the smoot, a unit of measure, is named), an extravagant pageant with fireworks before the Great Dome, and a night of dance parties with much-anticipated open bars.

The cause for celebration was not finals, but rather the hundred-year anniversary of MIT's move from Boston and over the Charles River to Cambridge. MIT's centennial festivities have been taking place for months as part of the MIT 2016 program, which even boasts its own steering committee, chaired by Professor John Ochsendorf.

Moving Day at MIT on May 7 was the pinnacle of these centennial events. It commemorated MIT's move in 1916, as well as the past 100 years of achievements from the Institute.

In the afternoon, members of the MIT community gathered to either watch or participate in a Crossing the Charles procession. Various labs, teams, and other groups crossed the Charles River from Boston to Cambridge using all sorts of modes of transportation, many of which they had built.

A highlight was a re-creation of the bucentaur, or Venetian barge, that MIT had used 100 years earlier to transport its charter across the river. The re-created one was 20 feet long and had been built by students out of luan wood, paper maché, and cardboard.

The bucentaur was joined by motorized kayaks, sailboats, and a model of the Great Dome on a raft.

Perfectly positioned on the "Reif Raft" to see the boats go by were President Rafael Reif himself, Chairman of the Corporation Robert Millard '73, and Cambridge Mayor E. Denise Simmons, who celebrated the occasion together.

As some people crossed by wa-

Moving Day, Page 3

Annual filing reveals who earned the most in 2014, MITIMCo heads top list

Reif trailed Hockfield, business and economics professors beat their colleagues in other depts

By Emma Bingham
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

Seth Alexander, President of the MIT Investment Management Company, was once again MIT's highest compensated individual, earning $1,607,182, according to MIT's tax form 990 for the year 2014.

The form, which all tax exempt organizations are required to make available to the public, includes the compensation of MIT's top administrators and other highest-paid individuals, among other financial data. The numbers in this article reflect both reportable compensation (the amount that would appear on an individual's W-2 form) and estimated amount of other compensation, such as retirement benefits.

MIT's second-highest-paid individual was MITIMCo Managing Director Steven C. Marsh's pay of $1,266,029, followed by President Emerita Susan J. Hockfield with $1,095,579.

As for current administrators, President L. Rafael Reif was paid $967,887, Provost Martin A. Schmidt was paid $610,183, Executive VP

Compensation, Page 3

IN SHORT

The deadline to initiate pre-registration for fall classes is June 13 at 5 p.m.

Remember to submit CI-H/HW subjects before June 13 using the CI-H/HW tool accessed through pre-registration.

Congratulations to the class of 2016!

Send news and tips to ***news@tech.mit.edu.***

Course 6 announces a revised curriculum

Members of the class of 2020 will be the first to be affected by the new curriculum

By Karleigh Moore
EDITOR

The department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science has announced a new curriculum that has been approved for EECS majors in the class of 2020.

Students in the classes 2017, 2018, and 2019 will have the option of pursuing a Course 6 degree with either the old or new set of requirements. The updated curriculum has been approved for 6-1, 6-2, 6-3, and 6-7.

"The new curriculum puts more choice in students' hands while providing a solid grounding in the essential elements of an education in electrical engineering and computer science," Anantha Chandrakasan, EECS Department Head, said in an email to undergraduates.

Key changes to the curriculum for 6-1, 6-2, and 6-3 include the removal of one of the introductory

EECS, Page 3

COMMENCEMENT FUN FACTS

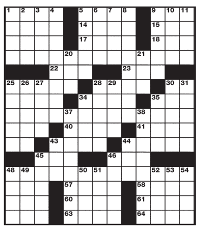
Did you know commencement was cancelled during WWI? **NEWS, p. 12**

YIELD JUMPED TO NEW HIGH

Record 74% of 2020 admits chose to attend MIT. **NEWS, p. 12**

SENIOR JUMPED TO NEW HIGH

Cimran Virdi '16 reflects on illustrious pole vault career. **SPORTS, p. 13**



BORED DURING COMMENCEMENT?

Visit our fun section, this week with extra fun.**FUN, p. 4-5**

FACING STRESS, OVERCOMING

Read Eva's story in the final installment of Portraits of Resilience. **CAMPUS LIFE, p. 11**

SECTIONS

Campus Life 11
Fun Pages 4
Sports 13

WEATHER

Showers threaten to dampen commencement

By Vince Agard
STAFF METEOROLOGIST

A warm front will pass from west to east through southern New England on Friday, bringing with it warmer temperatures but also the threat of rain. Formation of showers will be possible along a line stretching from Maine to Maryland as the front forces air upward, leading to condensation of water vapor as the rising air cools. The good news is that any showers that do form will likely be light in nature, so the commencement ceremony in Killian Court will not be a washout. The bad news is that open umbrellas are not permitted during the ceremony, so be sure to dress appropriately!

The front will move offshore on Friday night, leaving Massachusetts in the warm sector of a cyclone centered over eastern Canada. As a result, Saturday will be the most enjoyable day of the weekend, with plenty of sunshine and temperatures potentially reaching the 80°F (27°C) mark.

Sunday, on the other hand, likely will be a washout, with more substantial rain on the way as a cold front makes its way across the region.

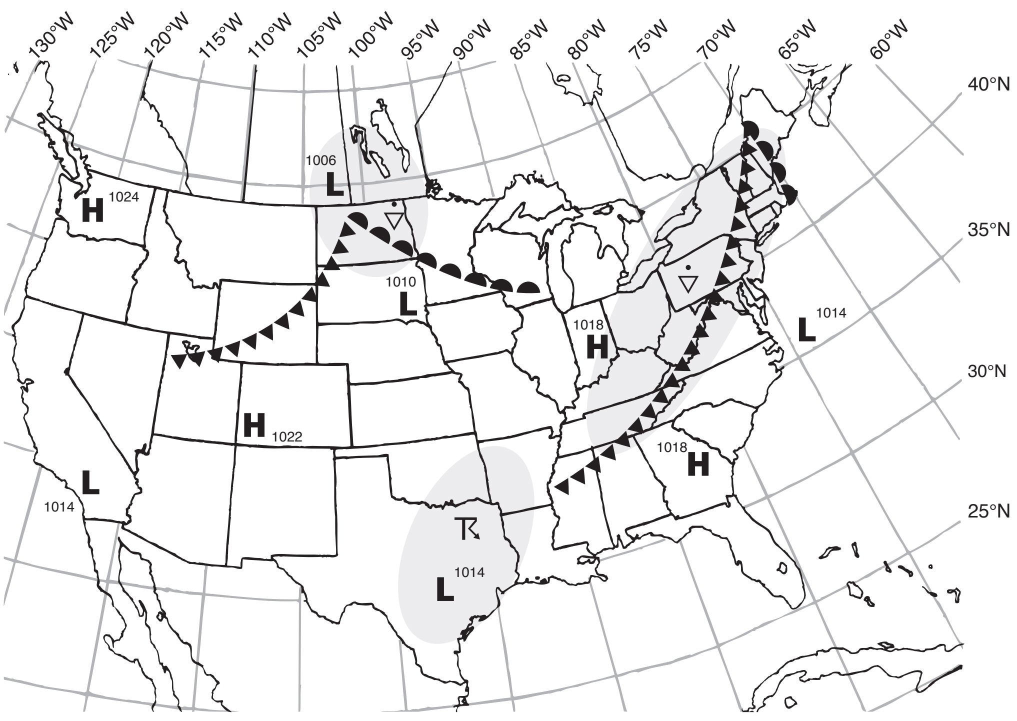
Extended Forecast

Today: Cloudy with a chance of showers. High 75°F (24°C). Winds S at 5-10 mph.

Tonight: Mostly cloudy. Low 64°F (18°C). Winds W at 5-10 mph.

Tomorrow: Mostly sunny. High 80°F (27°C). Winds W at 5-10 mph.

Sunday: Rain. High 68°F (21°C).



Situation for Noon Eastern Time, Friday, June 3, 2016

Weather Systems	
H	High Pressure
L	Low Pressure
§	Hurricane

Weather Fronts	
▬ ▬ ▬	Trough
◗◗◗◗	Warm Front
▲▲▲▲▲	Cold Front
▲◗▲◗	Stationary Front

Precipitation Symbols	Snow	Rain
Showers	*▽	•▽
Light	*	•
Moderate	**	••
Heavy	⁂	∴

Other Symbols	
≡	Fog
☈	Thunderstorm
∞	Haze

Compiled by MIT Meteorology Staff and *The Tech*

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Three employees' 2014 salaries top one million dollars

Course 15 Prof. Charles Fine is the highest paid professor at MIT

Compensation, from Page 1

and Treasurer Israel Ruiz was paid $606,763, and Chancellor Cynthia Barnhart was paid $394,415.

For comparison, Harvard president Drew G. Faust received $1,202,980 in compensation, Harvard Provost Alan M. Garber received $833,167, and Harvard Executive VP Katherine N. Lapp received $671,789.

These amounts, however, are not the highest among MIT's peer institutions. According to the Chronicle of Higher Education, in 2013, Columbia president Lee C. Bollinger earned upwards of $4.5 million, and University of Pennsylvania president Amy Gutmann earned $3 million, making them the highest paid presidents in academia.

Professors at MIT's Sloan School of Management were also among MIT's highest compensated individuals. Professors Charles Fine and Roberto Fernandez earned $906,406 and $843,178 respectively.

Professor Daron Acemoglu in the Economics Department made $841,380. This level of compensation may be what is required to retain top economics talent. Stanford made an offer to Acemoglu in 2012. Economics professors Dave Donaldson and Michael Greenstone recently left MIT for Stanford and the University of Chicago, respectively. Harvard has recently lost some of its economists as well—Professors Raj Chetty, Susan C. Athey, and Guido W. Imbens all departed for Stanford.

High-ranking members of the MIT Corporation were also well-compensated, with Senior VP and Secretary R. Gregory Morgan earning $674,040, outgoing Chairman John S. Reed earning $233,663 and incoming Chairman Robert B. Millard earning $76,773. The latter two figures reflect the fact that each man served only part of that year—Millard, the current chairman, began his tenure in October 2014.

All majors within course 6 see major curricula revisions

Each major will require fewer courses than before, 6.005 will be retired in fall in favor of new courses

EECS, from Page 1

EECS labs. "This will allow earlier engagement with core subject areas," Chandrakasan said.

Under the old curriculum, students were required to take 6.01 and 6.02 to fulfill the introductory lab requirement, but under the new curriculum, students have the option of completing 6.0001 and 6.01, 6.02, 6.03, or 6.S08; 6.01 and a 3-unit programming module; or 6.S08 and a 3-unit programming module. Additionally, under the new curriculum, students need only complete 6.UAT (which will be 9 units) or 6.UAR instead of the previous requirements: 6.UAT and 6.UAP, or 6.UAR.

According to the EECS requirements checklist, the department requirements under the old curriculum include 14 to 15 courses for 6-1 and 6-3 majors, 15 to 16 courses for 6-2 majors, and 16 courses for 6-7 majors. Under the new curriculum, the 6-1, 6-2, and 6-3 programs will require 13 courses plus 6.S080, a 3-unit programming module, or 6.0001, and 6-7 will require 14 classes.

There are a few new courses that come with this announcement: 6.041 will be broken into two half-semester courses, 6.041A and 6.041B; 6.009 will become a new 12-unit foundation-level subject; and 6.031, a 15-unit header-level subject that starts spring 2017.

6.005 will be split into two classes, 6.009 and 6.031, to "prepare students for higher level coursework by giving them the skills needed to write software that operates robustly," Chandrakasan said. In 6.009, students will design medium-sized programs in Python, and in 6.031, students will work in Java to create large-scale software.

Because 6.005 will be retired, and because 6.031 has multiple prerequisites, 6.031 will not carry 6.005's classification as a REST subject. 6.004 will become a REST subject starting fall 2016.

This article was edited to include the updates to the 6-7 curriculum.

Cambridge Planning Board approves Kendall Square changes

The Cambridge Planning Board unanimously approved MIT's plans to make several major changes to Kendall Square.

The changes will increase the amount of retail space and the amount of housing in the square and convert several parking lots into open space.

"Over two decades — thanks to the energy, creativity, and aspirations of thousands of researchers, inventors, entrepreneurs, and companies of every size — Kendall Square has gradually evolved from a semi-industrial landscape to the one of the most remarkable hubs of innovation in the world," MIT President L. Rafael Reif said in a statement.

The project will move the MIT Museum and the admissions office to Kendall Square.

The square will also see a net increase of 250 graduate housing units; Eastgate is set to be destroyed after the new, larger, dormitory is completed.

The newly built up area is expected to enjoy a more vibrant street life, a release on MIT News said.

The new buildings will chiefly feature glass facades and will provide a backdrop to several of the existing buildings along the southern side of Main Street. One new building, which will provide both market rate and affordable housing, will be located across the street, near the intersection of Main Street and Broadway.

MIT plans to hire a director of open space programming who will work to promote activity in the open space that will replace the existing parking lots off Hayward Street.

—William Navarre

Moving Day, start of comprehensive campaign coincide

Pageant featured professional actors and student performances

Moving Day, from Page 1

ter, others crossed by land. Leading the parade over the Harvard bridge was Oliver Smoot. Others in the parade included Ray Magliozzi of NPR's Car Talk, as well as a cheetah robot developed at the MIT Biomimetics Robotics Lab.

Those participating on both land and water were also competing to be in the top four teams recognized. A group of professors and administrators stationed in a judges' box on the bridge assigned points based on metrics like "elegant engineering design" and "expressing humor, school spirit, and/or a sense of 'only at MIT.'"

Many alumni were on campus to partake in the crossing, having just participated that morning in a set of events to mark the public launch of MIT's latest capital campaign that seeks to raise $5 billion.

In the evening, MIT hosted a pageant in Killian Court that was reminiscent of the one held to celebrate the opening of the new campus a century ago. This pageant had a full multimedia display that included a lit-up Great Dome and fireworks over the Charles River.

The multimedia display even included playful anagramming of the engraved "Massachusetts Institute of Technology" on Building 10. Powerful projectors were used to give the illusion that the stone letters were actually moving around.

Professional actors led a performance that put MIT's motto, "Mens et Manus," and the age-old debate of theory versus practice, on display. The actors brought to life the people in the MIT seal — one a stodgy old man with his nose buried in books, and the other a young, brash woman carrying a hammer.

They were joined by a cappella and dance groups, as well as puppeteers who wore gigantic costumes of famous MIT alumni that looked like large bobbleheads.

Moving Day concluded with four dance parties under tents that were spread out across the campus. Each party had a theme from a particular time period in the past century.

Students loved not only the open bars, but also the opportunity to come together and dance as a community.

"There were old people, young people, hot people, not-so-hot people," wrote one commenter on the MIT Confessions Facebook page wrote. "It seemed like the entire community was eager to just let go and get rowdy. I was surprised MIT could turn up that much."

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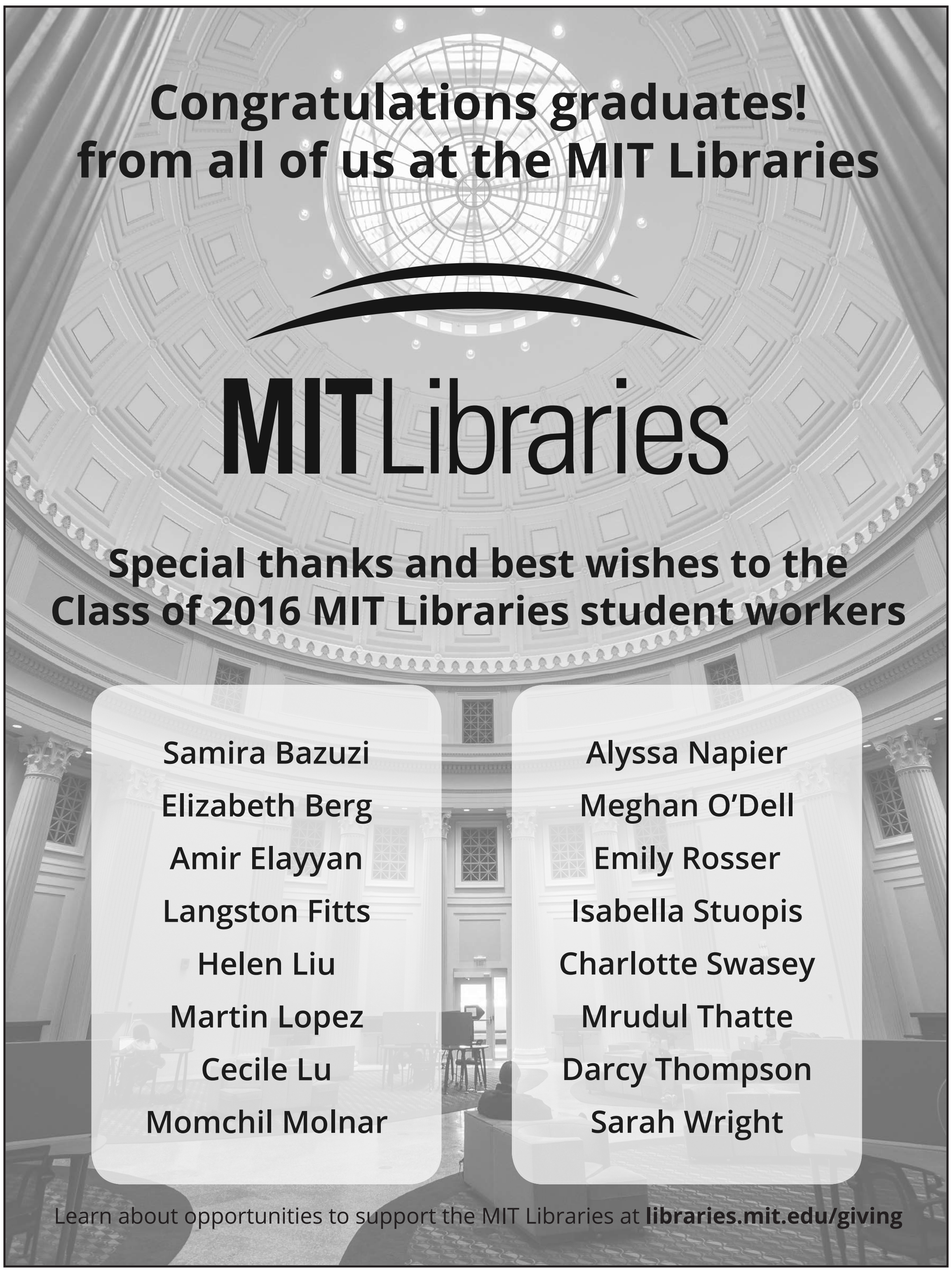

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Cap

Solution, page 10

2	9		1		6	4		
	3			5		2		
	1	8			2			
5			3				9	
		1				6		
	4				9			2
			5			1	4	
		9		8			2	
		4	2		1		5	9

Instructions: Fill in the grid so that each column, row, and 3 by 3 grid contains exactly one of each of the digits 1 through 9.

Tent

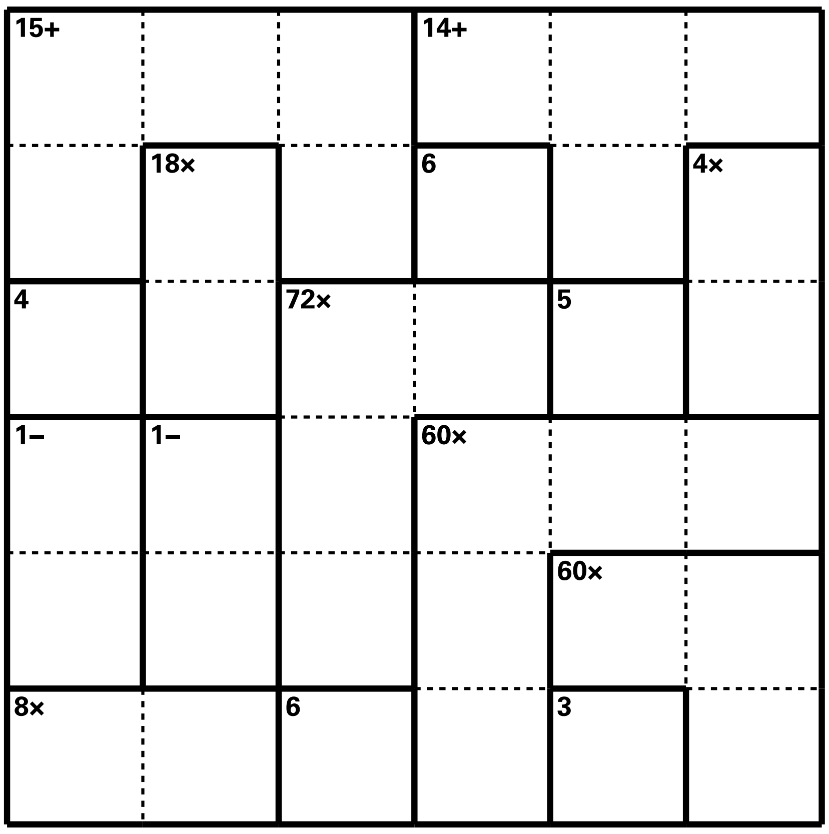
Solution, page 10

		5			4			9
	1		5		6			
6	2				3		7	1
	4							2
	6		4		8		3	
9							4	
2	9		1				5	3
			8		2		1	
1			3			2		

Instructions: Fill in the grid so that each column, row, and 3 by 3 grid contains exactly one of each of the digits 1 through 9.

Gown

Solution, page 10

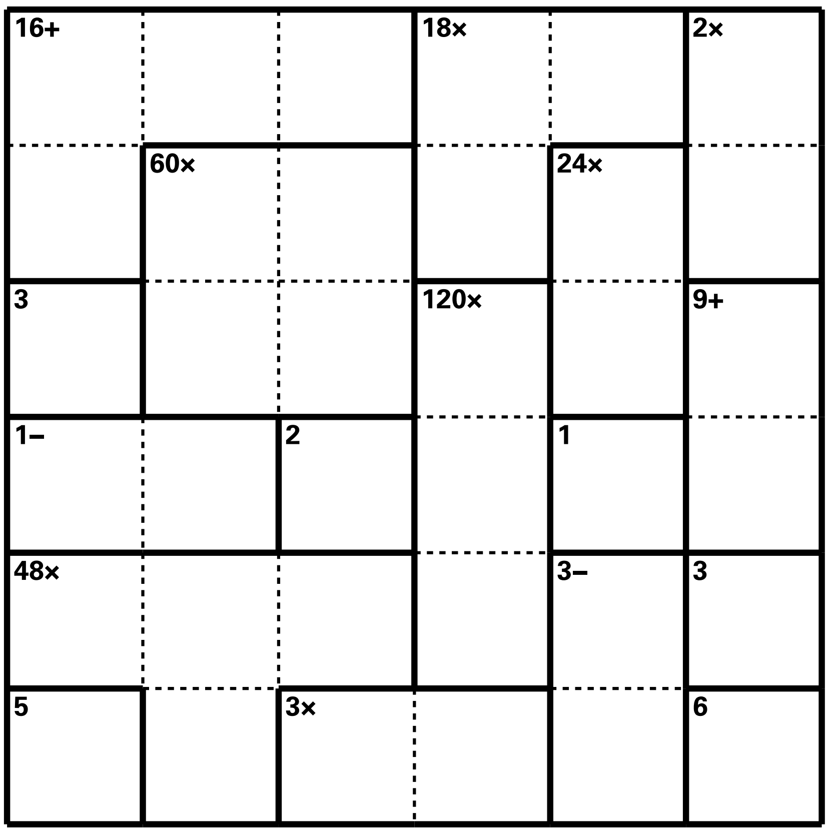


15+			14+		
	18×		6		4×
4		72×		5	
1–	1–		60×		
				60×	
8×		6		3	

Instructions: Fill in the grid so that each column and row contains exactly one of each of the numbers 1–6. Follow the mathematical operations for each box.

Diploma

Solution, page 10



16+			18×		2×
	60×			24×	
3			120×		9+
1–		2		1	
48×				3–	3
5		3×			6

Instructions: Fill in the grid so that each column and row contains exactly one of each of the numbers 1–6. Follow the mathematical operations for each box.

Now Hear This

by Gail Grabowski

Solution, page 10

ACROSS

1 Unable to feel anything
5 College official
9 Unruly crowds
13 Sub tracking device
14 Wheel-connecting rod
15 Spot of land in the sea
16 Emcee's start, for short
17 Take a break
18 Scrapbook adhesive
19 Be a braggart
22 Defeated, in boxing
23 Grain in Cheerios
24 "Rumor has it . . ."
28 Agile
30 Nation n. of Mexico
33 Towel fabric
34 Writer of verses
35 Molecule part
36 Spotless
39 Back part of a sock
40 Baseball hats
41 Promotional connection
42 "Absolutely!"
43 Richmond or Reno
44 Goatees, for example
45 Now __ then (occasionally)
46 Rowboat blade
47 Fails to jog one's memory
56 Numbered musical work
57 Very long time
58 Prohibited thing
59 Give a hoot
60 Out of danger
61 Arm joint
62 Parking-meter opening
63 Jogging pace
64 Piece of office furniture

DOWN

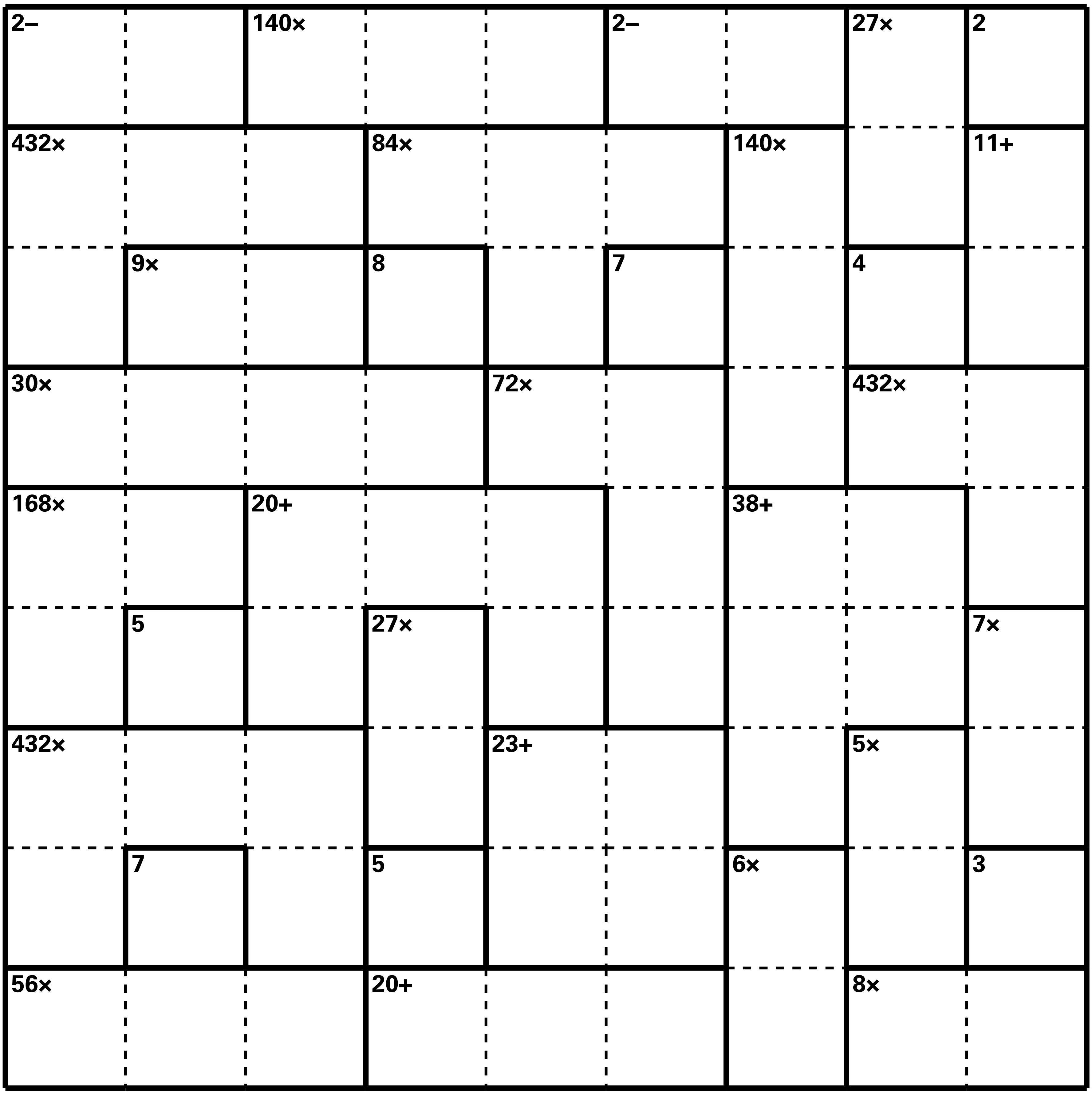
1 Prohibited thing
2 "Do __ others . . ."
3 Store ending for K or Wal
4 Most populous Big Apple borough
5 Took a risk
6 Former spouses
7 Furthermore
8 Measure of personal wealth
9 Could possibly
10 Norway's capital
11 Fuzzy image
12 Observed
13 Use a chair
20 Signal "OK" with one's head
21 Thumbs-down vote
24 Wanting to scratch
25 Big brawl
26 Oaks and elms
27 Word-of-mouth
28 All lathered up
29 Church benches
30 Say out loud
31 __ as a rock (reliable)
32 Prayer endings
34 Exam for HS juniors
35 India's continent
37 Conclusive evaluation
38 Repeated over and over
43 Atlanta-based news channel
44 Piece of luggage
45 Strong point
46 Beginning stage
47 Physicians, informally

■	1	2	3	4	■	5	6	7	8	■	9	10	11	12
13					■	14				■	15			
16					■	17				■	18			
19					20					21				
■	■	■	■	22			■	■	23			■	■	■
24	25	26	27			■	28	29			■	30	31	32
33					■	34				■	35			
36					37					38				
39				■	40				■	41				
42			■	43				■	44					
■	■	■	45			■	■	46			■	■	■	■
47	48	49				50	51				52	53	54	55
56				■	57				■	58				
59				■	60				■	61				
62				■	63				■	64				■

48 Whitish gemstone
49 Money in Italy
50 Lion sound
51 Data, for short
52 Hay bundle
53 Recedes
54 Take a peek
55 Close to the ground

A HUGE CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL NEW GRADUATES

Solution, page 12



Instructions: Fill in the grid so that each column and row contains exactly one of each of the numbers 1–9. Follow the mathematical operations for each box.

Saturday Stumper by Doug Peterson

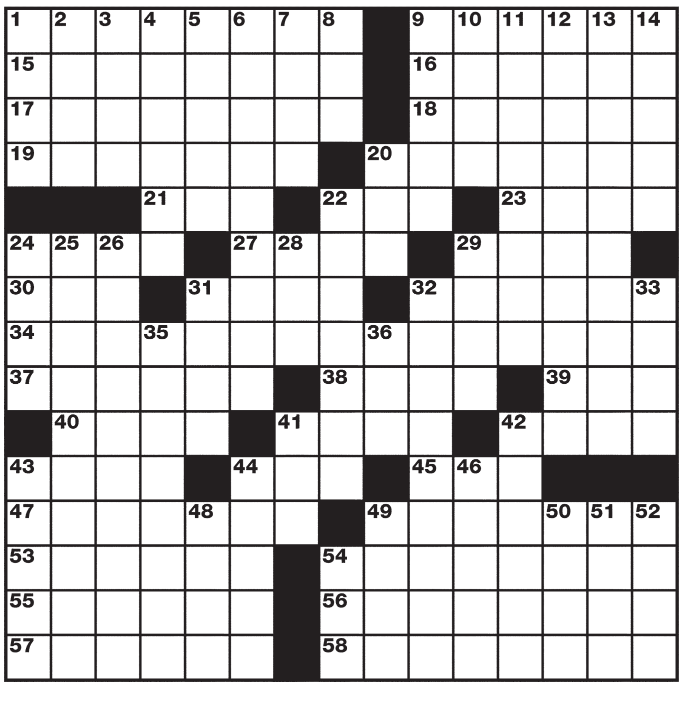
Solution, page 12

ACROSS

1 Hard to resist, in a way
9 Grape-Nuts developer
15 Where chestnuts might be found
16 Medium effort
17 Sketch not drawn
18 "Backwoods Barbie" artist
19 Defensive fortification
20 First audience-participation TV talk show
21 Practice
22 Parlor decoration
23 Make a bad impression on
24 Really let have it
27 DVD player part
29 Part of four NFL logos
30 __ thruster (type of rocket engine)
31 Brand name on Yoplait's Cotton Candy yogurt
32 Only veep born in DC
34 Teed off
37 Top of slopes
38 About five pounds of letter-size
39 Tom Wolfe, circa 1956
40 Ark builder in a 2007 film
41 Future star debuting in A Nightmare on Elm Street
42 Focused grp.
43 Pegged
44 To Be or Not to __ (Dizzy Gillespie memoir)
45 Many TV drama heroes
47 Canceled a reservation, say
49 Watson's "How we discovered DNA," for one
53 Sponge, for one
54 Posh mall
55 Refiner's activity
56 Egg whites, to some
57 Marked to move
58 Literally, "publicity"

DOWN

1 Allowing a peek
2 Through
3 Cleared for launch
4 Write over
5 Big choreographer
6 Snake in a nut can, essentially
7 Daschle's ex-Senate collaborator on a 2016 book
8 Wring (out)
9 Grand fraction
10 Bring up with, with "on"
11 Ideal model
12 Staggering
13 Heels
14 Basis of a platform
20 Break or time preceder
22 Return business
24 Torpedo features
25 Went to see
26 Reptile house supplies
28 Roaring start
29 Batman comics explosion sound
31 Center of many comparisons
32 Lacking backing
33 "__, lad" (apt anagram for a UN member)
35 Brown sphere
36 "Sure do"
41 Get into
42 Toward the tow rope



43 State with the shortest international land border
44 Hooey
46 Relaxes
48 Webster autograph, in part
49 __ order
50 Athena guided its construction
51 Heated denial
52 Giant of the Enlightenment
54 __ order

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The Tech (ISSN 0148-9607) is published on Thursdays during the academic year (except during MIT vacations) and monthly during the summer by The Tech, Room W20-483, 84 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge, Mass. 02139. Subscriptions are $50.00 per year (third class). **POSTMASTER:** Please send all address changes to our mailing address: The Tech, P.O. Box 397029, Cambridge, Mass. 02139-7029. **TELEPHONE:** Editorial: (617) 253-1541. Business: (617) 258-8324. Facsimile: (617) 258-8226. *Advertising, subscription, and typesetting rates available.* Entire contents © ***2016 The Tech***. *Printed by Turley Publications, Inc.*

Medals earned at the international olympiads may give admissions edge

Students reflect on their experiences competing in olympiads

Olympians, from Page 1

ily available regarding olympiads, there are dozens of students who fit into this category.

What is it about olympiads that allow international students to discover MIT, apply to MIT, and then be accepted to MIT?

Korrawat Pruegsanusak ’19, who goes by James for short, is one of the students who defied the odds to be here. He hails from Hat Yai, a southern city of Thailand.

Like they were for Valentino, academic competitions were the basis of James’s childhood. He and his sister began competing after some family friends’ suggestions.

By second grade, James was already competing at the national level in mathematics.

His mother rushed to keep up with James and his sister. With little guidance from the schools, she had to learn how to get the two to Bangkok multiples times a year for various competitions.

In sixth grade, James went to his first international competition in Hong Kong. “It was good,” he said shyly of his performance in the competition. In fact, James had won gold.

James and Valentino were young to start competing, and their momentum never ceased. For multiple reasons, their impressive trajectories would later lead them to MIT.

One way for international students to differentiate themselves in the competitive arena that is MIT admissions is to apply with some olympiad medals under their belts. But olympiads are more than just resume builders.

“I really didn’t care for school,” said Allan Dos Santos Costa ’19, talking about what it was like for him before he discovered olympiads. “My life was less devoted to learning,” he chuckled.

Allan comes from a region in Brazil called Bauru. While he was always passionate about science, he didn’t come from one of the Brazilian cities in which students are trained from a young age in preparation for olympiads. For him, it was an aunt’s suggestion to start competing.

After earning his first medal, a bronze one, in the Brazilian Astronomy Olympiad, Allan’s life changed.

“If you were to meet me one year before the olympiads and one year after, you wouldn’t recognize me. I was totally a different person, I’d say.”

“The medal itself wasn’t very valuable, but it opened so many doors for me,” said Allan. “It basically allowed me to keep evolving and foster my passion for astronomy and astrophysics.”

“I kind of started understanding why most of the things I was learning in classes, why they mattered, why I should be learning them, and how I should use them.”

Allan’s story is somewhat different from James’s and Valentino’s. For one, he started competing much later. However, the transformation they all experienced due to olympiads is similar.

James talked about how much he enjoyed the challenging nature of olympiad problems and the problem-solving skills he learned from them. Furthermore, the atmosphere of working with others drove him to become a better student.

Not everyone had such a positive experience with olympiads, though. Valentino said he saw some of his friends become so fearful that they were going to lose a single competition, because they felt the stakes stakes were so high. A single loss could keep them from the international level, where they would then have a chance to change their lives by later being accepted to a top university.

For those who do excel in olympiads, though, the experience changes their thinking. Allan said that some of the most important parts he gained from the experience were “the way olympiads require you to study and the way olympiads require you to think.

It is likely for this reason that MIT loves to accept students who participate in olympiads. Whether or not the student came into olympiads with strong academic skills, those who make it through have the skills and mindset of a type of student that MIT admissions knows will thrive in the Institute.

“The olympiads are a great activity for students who love creative thinking in the sciences, and also a way for students to find a community of like-minded people,” wrote Schmill in an email to *The Tech*.

The community of like-minded people is also what spurs many students to consider applying abroad to places like MIT. They hear about opportunities in other countries that may not be available in their own. Valentino and Allan said they learned more about MIT from the Olympiad Community.

“After participating in [International Biology Olympiad], I had many friends and team leaders who came to me, and they were like, ‘Dude, you have to apply to these universities in China, in Japan, in Russia,’” said Allan.

It was at that point that Allan stopped studying for Brazil’s national exams and became set on studying abroad. At first, he considered schools in Asia. He even started studying Chinese.

“I had to talk with many, many people in order to decide that the U.S. was indeed the best place for me.”

Allan applied to universities in many different countries, and one of those was MIT. “Like most people who apply to MIT, I was not really considering that I would [get in],” said Allan. “So when I [got into] MIT, it was like this crazy sensation, ‘Man, you’re at the top of the world.’”

In Thailand, like in Brazil, the average student doesn’t think of traveling abroad.

“Studying abroad for Thai students or for Thai families is not that popular, but it sounds very prestigious,” said James. “For average middle class students … it’s not necessarily one of the options to study abroad.”

According to James, there are two main ways to study abroad: either be part of a “higher middle class family” or receive a scholarship. Scoring well in olympiads often provides students with the latter, as was the case for James.

After winning a gold medal in the International Physics Olympiad in twelfth grade, James received a scholarship, called the King’s Scholarship, to attend a university internationally. The scholarship program also prepares the students for the transition by sending them to a boarding school to improve their English. In James’ case, he attended Phillips Exeter in New Hampshire for a year.

James ultimately decided to attend MIT, where he now looks to study computer science. He is in good company: an overwhelming majority of the 20 Thai students at MIT participated in some olympiad, according to James.

One may then wonder if winning an olympiad medal is needed to have a good chance of getting into MIT. Valentino, for example, recalled his MIT interviewer telling him, “Don’t even think about MIT if you haven’t done olympiads.”

Schmill emphasizes that this isn’t the case. “Certainly not all, or even most of” accepted international students participated in olympiads, Schmill said. “We look for the same qualities in international applicants as we do domestic students.”

Comparing international students to domestic students may be a difficult task, but it’s possible that MIT has begun to apply more of the same holistic approach used in domestic admissions towards its international admissions.

“I’d say some years ago, it was pretty common for MIT just to gather the top of the top of the top in olympiads,” said Allan, based on his observations of other Brazillians accepted to MIT. “It was really hard for people like me [to get in], just because it’s really hard to, in two years, participate in international olympiads, and get really good medals.”

“Some years [ago], it became more common for MIT to really consider the regional situation of the person,” said Allan. “I feel like there is this trend of really considering the background, and not only the medal or the level of the [person].”

Yet, as long as olympiads are around, one can expect them to continue to turn out some of the most accomplished and promising students — ones that MIT is likely to accept.

The admissions department at MIT knows this, and so do prospective students. Rather than shying away from this connection, MIT seems to have embraced it.

“Because a lot of our students and alumni have competed in international olympiads, I hope that has had an effect of encouraging other students to participate in them,” said Schmill.

CORRECTIONS

A May 5 article on Affiliated incorrectly implied that the organization had achieved ASA recognition. In fact, the group had been approved to become recognized but had not yet officially been recognized.

The article also misstated the name of MIT’s organization for LGBT students. The organization is actually called LBGT@MIT rather than LGBT@MIT.

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Suzanne Corkin, cognitive scientist who worked at MIT, dies at 79

Suzanne Corkin, whose painstaking work with a famous amnesiac known as H.M. helped clarify the biology of memory and its disorders, died on Tuesday in Danvers, Mass. She was 79.

Her daughter, Jocelyn Corkin, said the cause was liver cancer.

Dr. Corkin met the man who would become a lifelong subject and collaborator in the early 1960s, when she was a graduate student in Montreal at the McGill University laboratory of the neuroscientist Brenda Milner.

Henry Molaison — known in published reports as H.M., to protect his privacy — was a modest, middle-aged former motor repairman who had lost the ability to form new memories after having two slivers of his brain removed to treat severe seizures when he was 27.

In a series of experiments, Dr. Milner had shown that a part of the brain called the hippocampus was critical to the consolidation of long-term memories. Most scientists had previously thought that memory was not dependent on any one cortical area.

Mr. Molaison lived in Hartford, and Dr. Milner had to take the train down to Boston and drive from there to Connecticut to see him. It was a long trip, and transporting him to Montreal proved to be so complicated, largely because of his condition, that Dr. Milner did it just once.

Yet rigorous study of H.M., she knew, would require proximity and a devoted facility — with hospital beds — to accommodate extended experiments. The psychology department at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology offered both, and with her mentor's help, Dr. Corkin landed a position there.

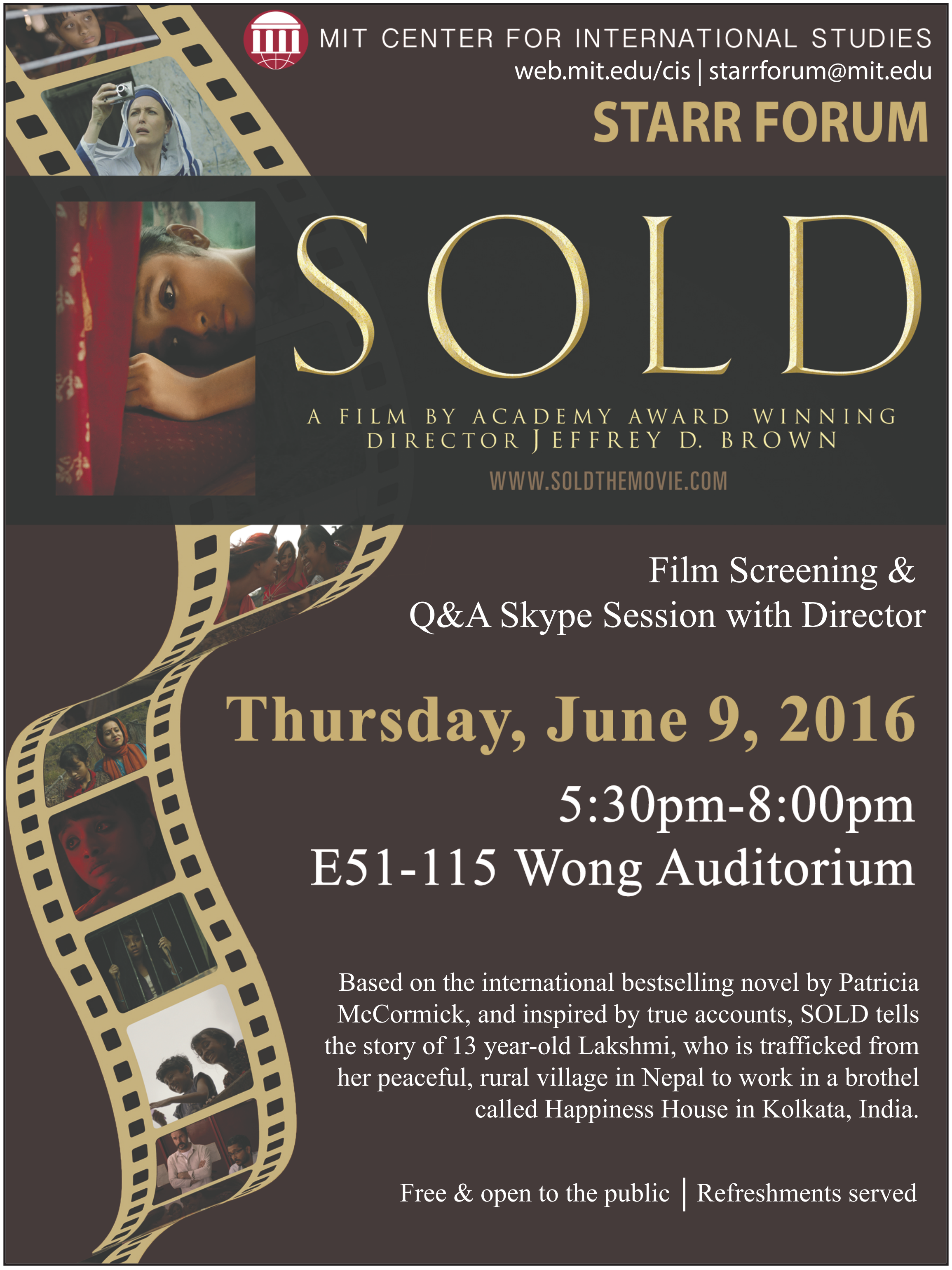
Thus began a decades-long collaboration between Dr. Corkin and Mr. Molaison that would extend the work of Dr. Milner, focus intense interest on the hippocampus, and make H.M. the most famous patient in the history of modern brain science.

"Sue had incredible patience; she was absolutely meticulous," Dr. Milner, a professor in the department of neurology and neurosurgery at McGill, said in an interview. "A lot of people dabble in neuroscience; they don't understand how many readings you have to take, and how carefully. Sue was extremely disciplined. You could absolutely trust every observation she had."

In hundreds of studies, up to and even after Mr. Molaison's death in 2008 at 82, Dr. Corkin provided an extraordinarily detailed picture of his medial temporal region, which contains the hippocampus, and how the surgical lesions affected his memory.

Among many other contributions, her work helped settle a debate about the function of the hippocampus in retrieving and reliving past experi-

Corkin, Page 12



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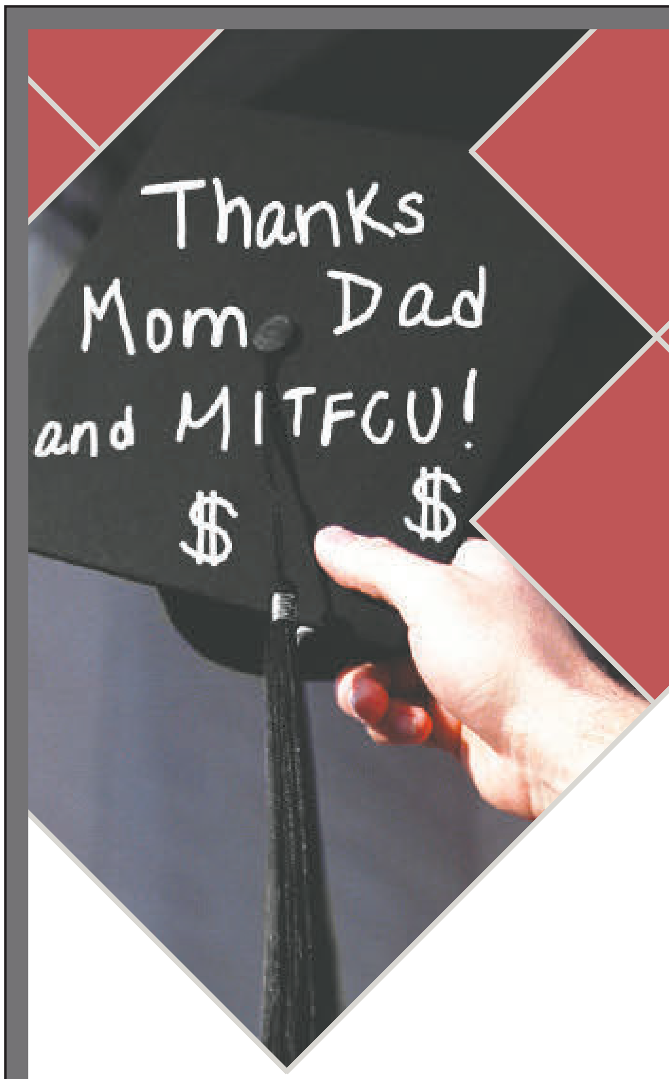

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IT'S ON US

Solution to Cap

from page 4

2	9	5	1	7	6	4	8	3
4	3	6	9	5	8	2	1	7
7	1	8	4	3	2	9	6	5
5	6	2	3	4	7	8	9	1
9	7	1	8	2	5	6	3	4
8	4	3	6	1	9	5	7	2
6	2	7	5	9	3	1	4	8
1	5	9	7	8	4	3	2	6
3	8	4	2	6	1	7	5	9

Solution to Gown

from page 4

3	5	1	2	4	6
1	3	5	6	2	4
4	6	2	3	5	1
6	2	4	5	1	3
5	1	3	4	6	2
2	4	6	1	3	5

Solution to Tent

from page 4

7	3	5	2	1	4	8	6	9
8	1	9	5	7	6	3	2	4
6	2	4	9	8	3	5	7	1
3	4	7	6	5	9	1	8	2
5	6	1	4	2	8	9	3	7
9	8	2	7	3	1	6	4	5
2	9	8	1	6	7	4	5	3
4	5	3	8	9	2	7	1	6
1	7	6	3	4	5	2	9	8

Solution to Diploma

from page 4

6	5	4	2	3	1
1	6	5	3	4	2
3	2	1	5	6	4
4	3	2	6	1	5
2	1	6	4	5	3
5	4	3	1	2	6

Solution to Hear

from page 4

■	N	U	M	B	■	D	E	A	N	■	M	O	B	S
S	O	N	A	R	■	A	X	L	E	■	I	S	L	E
I	N	T	R	O	■	R	E	S	T	■	G	L	U	E
T	O	O	T	O	N	E	S	O	W	N	H	O	R	N
■	■	■	■	K	O	D	■	■	O	A	T	■	■	■
I	M	T	O	L	D	■	S	P	R	Y	■	U	S	A
T	E	R	R	Y	■	P	O	E	T	■	A	T	O	M
C	L	E	A	N	A	S	A	W	H	I	S	T	L	E
H	E	E	L	■	C	A	P	S	■	T	I	E	I	N
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C	A	R	E	■	S	A	F	E	■	E	L	B	O	W
S	L	O	T	■	T	R	O	T	■	D	E	S	K	■

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PORTRAITS OF RESILIENCE

Eva Breitenbach

Editor's Note: Portraits of Resilience is a photography and interview series by Prof. Daniel Jackson. Each installment consists of a portrait and a story, told in the subject's own words, of how they found resilience and meaning in their life.

Anxiety and stress are things that I have dealt with for a while. Starting business school was a particularly stressful time for me because I was trying to figure out what I wanted to do with my life, and I also had some doubts about whether business school had even been the right decision for me.

I thought I was dealing with it relatively well. Then, in the last week of November, I went out to dinner with my boyfriend. We got in a huge fight, and I woke up the next morning and couldn't move half my face.

I knew as soon as I woke up what was going on, but I tried to convince myself that I just pulled a muscle. But I couldn't even drink coffee or eat without leaking out of the side of my mouth. Eventually I went to urgent care, and they told me I had Bell's palsy. They said it should go away in between two to six weeks.

I was pretty shell-shocked, utterly overwhelmed, didn't really understand the implications, and felt scared and helpless. As a relatively young and healthy person, there have been very few times I've felt like my body betrayed me. This was a real sign that my body had done something that was not under my control, and I didn't know what to do about it.

It turned out to be four months of no motion on that side of my face at all. My theory is that it was caused by a shingles virus, which is actually one of the worst kinds of Bell's palsy. In the first week that I had it, it got worse and worse and worse. I started feeling a lot of pain, and my face froze up more. I was getting a lot of stiffness in my neck and a rash on my ear.

> **There have been very few times I've felt like my body betrayed me. This was a real sign that my body had done something that was not under my control, and I didn't know what to do about it.**

The really hard thing was feeling like I couldn't communicate with the people around me. I'm pretty quiet, but I tend to smile a lot. My smile would be like a grimace, and it wasn't really recognizable as a smile. It made me hugely self-conscious, so I generally didn't make any expression, because if my face was resting, you couldn't tell that anything was going on.

So I basically stopped smiling at people. I came to realize it's a really fundamental way that humans communicate with each other. Also, there's a lot of research showing that the more you smile, the more you actually are happier and feel joy. Not only was I struggling with this stressful thing, which was caused by stress, but the way that it was manifesting was causing me even more stress. It was really difficult. I think I just went inwards a little bit. I stopped going to social events, and I ended up spending a lot more time alone, and then a lot more time with close friends.

It got even harder when I started hitting the timelines when people had told me I should be getting better. There are far worse things than not being able to smile, but I had to just accept that I might not ever get better. It's an interesting disease, because it's only cosmetic, and when you start to compare it to things that other people are dealing with, it's so clearly just not even on the same scale as a disease that actually harms your health. But, at the same time, it was a real thing, and it was challenging how I saw myself both figuratively and literally.

> **It got even harder when I started hitting the timelines when people had told me I should be getting better. There are far worse things than not being able to smile, but I had to just accept that I might not ever get better.**

Around then, I signed up for "The Yarn," a Sloan School storytelling event. This finally made me engage with my disease and recognize what it had done to me. I realized that Bell's palsy was not under my control, but my reaction to it was under my control. I could decide whether I wanted to see it as this horrible thing that I should feel sorry for myself for, or as this opportunity to better understand myself, and to derive meaning and purpose.

Once you start to see it in that way, it changes a lot. I started to realize there had been really good things about me having to step back from all the craziness at school. It had been a way for me to gain more clarity about what I actually cared about and what I wanted to be spending my time doing. I realized that I hadn't been living in line with my values. In business school, there's a lot of pressure to follow the herd. I'd been pulled away from the things that I really wanted to be doing, such as art and writing.

So it was a wake-up call. It's easy to just think you can deal with stress. You take on more and more and more things, and think it will all work out somehow, sleeping five hours a night, running from activity to activity, saying yes to everything because you don't want to miss out on an opportunity. And then you just realize that you're not a person. You're just a to-do list, and you've lost touch with who you are and what you want.

I started meditating more regularly. I had been doing it intermittently previously. I kind of got my emotional house in order, and lo and behold, the movement started coming back in my face. I sent my boyfriend a video right away. I could just move the corner of my cheek, my lip at first, and then over the course of about three weeks, I regained a lot of movement and sensation.

COURTESY OF DANIEL JACKSON

There are a lot of paradoxes in what happened to me. In many areas of my life, I have this tendency to try so hard, and when I see a problem, I say, "I'm not going to give up. I'm going to keep going. I'm going to keep pushing. I can make it through this. I can figure out the solution." But sometimes you have to just step back and breathe, and say: a) maybe this problem can't be solved, or b) maybe I just need to take a break from it and come back to it, or c) maybe I'm so fixated on this specific problem that I'm not even realizing it's irrelevant to the overall bigger picture. That's happened to me at work and in my personal life many times.

> **It's easy to just think you can deal with stress. You take on more and more and more things, and think it will all work out somehow... And then you just realize that you're not a person. You're just a to-do list, and you've lost touch with who you are and what you want.**

This is maybe a little bit of the Buddhist in me, but I'm realizing there's a difference between the emotion you feel and the story you tell yourself about it. I can say I am feeling overwhelmed, and I can focus on that feeling of overwhelmedness, without launching into the story about, "Oh, I'm overwhelmed because I'm never going to get better, and this is going to be this thing that I have to deal with for the rest of my life." I started instead to just say, "Hey, I feel overwhelmed right now. Let me do something to relax."

Before business school, I thought a lot about what I wanted to do afterwards, and I think now I'm actually coming around to many of the same things, but I have this degree of certainty and security and confidence that I never had before.

I'm at six months now. I probably won't regain full capacity. If I try to raise my eyebrows, I can only raise them on one side, and my smile isn't symmetrical anymore.

But it's funny how when I look back on this year, Bell's palsy was probably the best thing that happened to me. It was just this really powerful clarifying force. Before, I would get so caught up in my emotions. Something would happen, and then I would have this huge emotional response to it, and that would be my reality and I couldn't get out of it. Now I have some distance from my emotions. I can make choices.

Eva Breitenbach is a student in the MBA program at the Sloan School of Management.

This project is supported by the Undergraduate Association's Committee on Student Support and Wellness, chaired by Tamar Weseley '17 and Alice Zielinski '16. To participate in the project, or to learn more, contact ResilienceProject@mit.edu.

There are many ways to find help. Members of the MIT community can access support resources at resources.mit.edu/support. *To access support through MIT Medical's Mental Health & Counseling Service, please call (617) 253-2916 or visit medical.mit.edu.*

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DID YOUR MIT ESSAYS GET YOU IN?

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Corkin ran lab in MIT's Dept. of Brain and Cog. Sciences

She uncovered mysteries of the biology of memory, working with famous amnesiac patient called H.M.

Corkin, from Page 7

ences. Some scientists had argued that once a strong memory was stored, the hippocampus was not critical to retrieving it. Dr. Corkin's work with H.M. showed that such a memory — getting lost in the woods at camp, say, or hitchhiking across the country — was still partly retrievable without the hippocampus.

She found, however, that the narrative richness of the memory was gone. Loose impressions remained, but the "story" was lost.

Gist memories, she called them.

"She was able to take this single case and do such meticulous work on the anatomy and its effects on memory that it helped settle these questions," said Morris Moscovitch, a professor of psychology at the University of Toronto. "That is one hallmark of her work. The other is how much she cared for H.M. She wasn't merely using him — she became his caretaker, she took care of him like family."

Suzanne Janet Hammond was born in Hartford on May 18, 1937, the only child of Lester Hammond, who worked in engine parts sales, and the former Mabelle Dowling, who worked for the local Department of Motor Vehicles. She grew up in West Hartford — "just down the street," as she said many years later, from Dr. William Beecher Scoville, the brain surgeon who operated on Mr. Molaison in 1953.

It was the era of the lobotomy, and Dr. Scoville was one of a number of swashbuckling surgeons doing experimental surgeries — they would be unethical today — for a variety of mental problems, including schizophrenia and severe depression, with often disastrous consequences. Mr. Molaison was that rarest of cases: Notwithstanding the seizures, he was mentally healthy and lucid, both before and after the surgery, making him an ideal experimental subject.

Dr. Corkin, after graduating from Smith College with a degree in psychology, knew exactly where she wanted to go: to Dr. Milner's laboratory at McGill. She focused on studying how the brain represents touch, an area of research many students found too laborious to take on.

In her later work with Mr. Molaison at M.I.T., Dr. Corkin became equal parts experimentalist, protector and advocate. She closely guarded access to Mr. Molaison, especially after his parents died and he moved in with a family friend and later to a nursing home.

Dr. Corkin lived in Charlestown, Mass. In addition to her daughter, she is survived by two sons, Damon and J. Zachary, and seven grandchildren. Her marriage to Charles Corkin ended in divorce.

Dr. Corkin published more than 100 research papers, touching on topics as varied as Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease and psychosurgery. She also wrote or co-wrote 10 books.

But it was her relationship with H.M. that was defining. His profound deficits made their relationship anything but normal — every time she walked in the room, she had to reintroduce herself — but that repetition bred a curious bond over time.

"He thought he knew me from high school," Dr. Corkin said in an interview with The New York Times in 2008.

After Mr. Molaison died, Dr. Corkin arranged to have his brain removed, preserved, exhaustively imaged and finally sent for dissection and electronic mapping. It became a kind of monument as well as a historical artifact and resource for further study.

In her book "Permanent Present Tense: The Unforgettable Life of the Amnesic Patient, H.M." (2013), Dr. Corkin wrote about her transition from seeing Mr. Molaison as a "subject" to seeing him as a human being. "My interest in Henry," she wrote, "had always been primarily intellectual; how else would I explain why I had stood on a chair in the basement of Mass General, ecstatic to see his brain expertly removed from his skull?"

Still, she added: "I felt compassion for Henry and respected his outlook on life. He was more than a research participant. He was a collaborator — a prized partner in our larger quest to understand memory."

—Benedict Carey
New York Times

Admissions reports record-high yield for class of 2020

A record-high percentage of students admitted to the class of 2020 will attend MIT next fall.

Seventy-four percent of admitted students will matriculate; this represents about 1,099 of the 1,485 students admitted, who make up 7.8 percent of the total 19,020 applicants.

From a waitlist of 437, 26 students were admitted on May 11.

MIT's yield has been steadily increasing for the past three years, from 72.1 percent for the class of 2017 and 73 percent for the class of 2018.

Peer institutions Harvard and Princeton posted yields of 80 percent and 68.5 percent, respectively — near-highs for both institutions. Last year, Stanford and Yale saw rates of 81 percent.

—Katherine Nazemi

MIT's 139th commencement to be held June 3

On June 3, MIT will hold its 139th commencement. The speaker will be actor Matt Damon. The stage and the chairs are set up on the soft, green grass of Killian Court. The weather predictions show scattered showers and patchy fog.

Even though this is the 139th commencement, it marks 149 years in which degrees have been conferred. The first commencement exercises were held in 1868. Commencement was not held during 1918 and 1919 because of World War I.

The first MIT commencement speaker, who spoke in the year 1880, was Rev. George E. Ellis, a Unitarian clergyman and historian.

The commencement exercises of 1882 were marked by tragedy. William Barton Rogers, MIT's founder, collapsed onstage while giving a speech. He was later pronounced dead. A quote from the June 21, 1882 issue of *The Tech* describes how "an unusual stillness, like that of death, pervaded the building" as commencement concluded.

In 1970, instead of a speaker, the graduates requested a two-minute silence in order to consider what can be done "to help resolve the conflicts which divide mankind in this country and around the world."

More recent past commencement speakers include President Bill Clinton, Salman Khan '98 (founder of Khan Academy), Ben Bernanke PhD '79, Ray Magliozzi '72 and Tom Magliozzi '58 (hosts of NPR's "Car Talk"), Kofi Annan SM '72, and Vice President Al Gore.

Congratulations to this year's graduates and best of luck in the future!

—Emma Bingham

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A sampling of people you'll meet during a typical dinner at *The Tech*:

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Michelle, Course 3
Jiahao, Course 6
Patricia, Course 8
Vivian, Course 9
Amy, Course 10
Vince, Course 12
Fiona, Course 14

Samir, Course 16
Katherine, Course 17
Claire, Course 18
Jack, Course 19
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Solution to HUGE

from page 5

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Solution to Saturday

from page 5

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Pole vault champion reflects on career at MIT

Among Division III females, Virdi ‘16 jumped highest: an impressive 4.27 meters

By Souparno Ghosh
SPORTS EDITOR

During this past academic year, we have featured a number of exceptionally talented student-athletes from different sports at MIT in our Player of the Month series. In this commencement edition, we feature a sensational senior who has four individual national titles to her credit and has literally jumped higher than any female athlete in division III history.

Cimran Virdi ’16 gives us a glimpse of what it takes to be an elite student-athlete at MIT. At the same time, Virdi comes across as someone with a lot of gratitude and humility for her accomplishments. Following a most untimely injury that prevented her from competing in the outdoor track and field season in her last season, Virdi reflects on her struggles, the adversities she had to overcome, and how ultimately she learnt to enjoy the journey and not just focus on the milestones no matter how significant they may be.

Virdi had started competitive pole vault from her freshman year in high school. By the time she was ready to go to college she had already jumped a height of 3.90m (12’ 9.5”) and was deciding between going to MIT or UCLA. One of her coaches back then had advised her to go to the school where she would be most happy if she got injured.

> **“For me it came down to putting myself in a position to believe that I could do something even if I had not done it before.”**

Having been injured, Virdi reflected, “It is hard to make that kind of judgment—UCLA or MIT without having experienced it all. But, I am happy with the choice I made. I have enjoyed my four years here.”

Like many of her peers, MIT posed unique challenges for her.

“6.046: the advanced algorithms class,” quipped Virdi when asked about the class that challenged her most. She was quick to add, “It seems harder than it really is because everyone goes into it knowing it is going to be hard.”

Virdi, however, was up for any challenge.

This is how her coach Patrick Barragan PhD ’12 put it: “She had to work hard to adjust to MIT and excel in school as well as pole vault. And it was no easy task. Within 3 years, she had jumped 4.27 [m] (14’), the highest any woman had ever gone in Division III.”

Virdi credits her coach for having a unique perspective into coaching pole vault.

“My coach, who is mechanical engineer with a PhD, SM, and SB from MIT, is very methodical about coaching pole vault. He looks at the sport from a physics standpoint, [and] that helps in understanding what kind of forces need to be put on the pole and how to optimize efficiency,” said Virdi.

But for all the technique and expertise in physics it often comes down to mental toughness.

Virdi explained, “Usually in a lot of sports within track and field where you are trying to do your best, what primarily holds people back is whether think they can do something. For me, it came down to putting myself in a position to believe that I could do something even if I had not done it before.”

For someone who had ‘achieved something she had not before’ multiples in a trophy-laden career, we asked her if she had any favorites. From her response, we get a unique insight about the person behind those national titles.

Virdi reflected, “The meet I am most proud of is not a national championship. It was my second outdoor nationals, and I finished second. That championship was right after my indoor national title. But I ended up jumping higher [than my personal best] than I did indoor.”

“It was a great competition. I did not let anything get in the way of taking the best jumps I could. It was the most exciting competition as well as there were just two girls left. We kept raising the bar, clearing three heights each time with no misses. Only after I had jumped my personal best did I have three misses. I performed my best in that meet. That is the one I am most proud of. No one would know it, as I did not win that one,” added Virdi.

> **“I feel very grateful for it all and lucky that on paper [my accomplishments] look great.”**

Having to navigate stiff competition from premier athletes from other institutions could take its toll on a person, but Virdi had a different outlook: “I think the rivalry was good, as it set the bar in the nationals, which is the only competition I got to see [her rival] and some other athletes. But as far as my performance goes, I focus on doing my best. When I perform, I am not looking out for Marissa or Anna or anyone in particular.”

Virdi went on to explain how, just like her one of her rivals, Marissa Kelsey, had gotten injured and missed this outdoor season.

“One thing I love about this sport is the community it builds. We have become friends and dealt with disappointments together,” added Virdi.

For the senior with four national titles, looking to “move on from school and live in the real world” while keeping the dreams of representing Canada at the Olympics alive, how does she look back at such an amazing career?

“I think when I look back, I reflect less on the accomplishments and more on the journey—the friends I have made, the lessons I have learnt, the injuries, the struggles, the people I was able to help, and the people I was able to learn from. I feel very grateful for it all and lucky that on paper [my accomplishments] looks great.”

Overall, Engineers enjoy stellar athletics this year

Memorable moments, like a first-ever softball World Series showing, worth revisiting

By Ahaan Rungta
SPORTS WRITER

The 2015-16 school year was not just an eventful period for MIT academically but also a year of immense success by a number of its athletic teams. We highlight a few of the most memorable moments of MIT sports from this school year.

Tennis teams run away with NEWMAC titles

The MIT tennis teams took turns at snagging championships as both the women’s team and men’s team won their respective New England Women’s and Men’s Athletic Conference (NEWMAC) championships. In the fall, the women’s team won their eighth NEWMAC title, edging out Babson College, 5-4, in the final. Elysa M. Kohrs ’17 was named the tournament’s most outstanding player for her clutch singles’ performances. The finals win handed MIT a sixth appearance in the NCAA Division III Women’s Tennis Championship, in which they were defeated by Williams College in the final, 5-1.

In the spring, the men’s team won their eighteenth consecutive NEWMAC championship after completing the 5-0 sweep of Babson college. That win sent them to the NCAA Division II Tournament as well, in which they were edged out in the final by Bowdoin College. The men’s tennis team also saw several of their members earn individual accolades. Alex Cauneac ’19 was named the NEWMAC most outstanding player and became the first Engineer ever to receive Athlete and Rookie of the Year honors in the same season. Sean Ko ’19 and Tyler Barr ’19 join Cauneac on the NEWMAC All-Conference team in 2016 as well.

Softball team heads to the World Series

After defeating host Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) in the NCAA Softball Championship Super Regionals, the MIT softball team earned themselves a berth in the College World Series for the first time in program history. Timely hitting and masterful pitching told the story for the Engineers. The Super Regional tournament's most outstanding player Amanda Lee ’18 placed one of the final exclamation marks of the series against WPI when she mashed a two-run home run, and eventually the entire offense of the Engineers got in their 2-1 series-clinching win. Lee finished out the year batting at .367 with three home runs, 27 runs batted in, and a slugging percentage of .503.

Meanwhile, Alexandra Marshall ’16 continued her dominance on the mound, as she tossed 7 innings of one-run ball (unearned). Marshall was named the regional tournament's most outstanding pitcher for her record of 26-11 with a 1.05 ERA. She was also the recipient of the 2015-16 team MVP for the Engineers. Additionally, Amber VanHemel ’19 was named the MIT COOP Student Athlete of the Week after her late game-winning knock in Game 1 against WPI providing the only RBI in the 1-0 win. Also recognized was co-captain Tori Jensen, who received Athlete of the Week honors twice and rounded out the season batting at .324.

Lacrosse teams take the division by storm

After winning its first ever NEWMAC championship in the 2014-15 season, the MIT women’s lacrosse team continued their strong showing as they went all the way to the semifinals this year on solid performances by several Engineers. Cecilia McCormick ’19 was named the tournament’s Rookie of the Year while Christine Jiang ’16, last year’s NEWMAC most outstanding player, joined teammates Kira Schott ’16 and last year’s Rookie of the Year Emily Young ’18 as members of the All-Conference team as they put up conference top-10 statistics in several categories.

McCormick was the second straight Engineer to be named Rookie of the Year, as she notched 51 goals and 9 assists in her 18 games. Jiang finished with 26 caused turnovers, produced 34 groundballs, and 24 draw controls in 18 games. Schott earned a third all-conference selection after her 38 goals, 12 assists, 50 points, and 57 draw controls in 17 games. Young, who played only 11 games, produced 30 goals, 6 assists, 36 points, and 26 draw controls.

On the men’s end, head coach Walter Alessi, who received Coach of the Year for the tenth time, led the Engineers into holding the No. 3 seed in the NEWMAC conference. Also receiving All-Conference honors were Graham Davis ’18, Harris Stolzenberg ’17, Paul Orrson ’16, Christian Jamison ’18, Mitchell Galer ’19, John Kramer ’16, and David Klee ’18 on the strength of several conference-topping season performances. Davis ranked second in the NEWMAC in goals (47), third in points (61), first in man-down goals (three) and third in man-up goals (six). Stolzenberg finished second in the league in assists (35) and points (68), fourth in goals (33), and fifth in man-up goals (five). From the midfield, Orrson capped off his career pouring 22 goals and 6 assists. Jamison recorded 46 groundballs and 18 caused turnovers. Kramer had a solid senior year as well, in which he generated 28 caused turnovers and grabbed 49 groundballs. Klee, a selection on the second team defense for the second consecutive year, had 53 groundballs and 17 caused turnovers to his name. Finally, the rookie Galer led the NEWMAC in faceoffs (193-for-341), and finished seventh in groundballs (67) and thirteenth in faceoff percentage (.566).

Taekwondo team finishes 2nd in conference

The MIT Taekwondo team participated in the 2015-16 Eastern Collegiate Taekwondo Conference (ECTC), which consisted of five distinct tournaments between several schools in multiple divisions. After a full school year of practices and competing, the MIT team finished second place in Division I, which was eventually taken control of by Cornell University, who won the championship.

The MIT Taekwondo team obtains many of its members from interested students who take the PE class for credit, making all years, freshmen through seniors, well-represented. Co-captained by Tahin Sayed G and Andy Guatemala ’16 and coached by Master Dan Chuang, the MIT team performed well in all departments at all belt ranks, dominating at every tournament, beginning with the first which was hosted by MIT. Co-captain Guatemala was also named to the sparring all-star team. The team looks to take it to the next level and seek the championship title next year.

The MIT teams combined for a fine display of athletics with no sports unnoticed throughout the year, and with plenty of outstanding performances commemorated at the 30th Annual Student-Athlete Excellence Banquet. Those teams that were unable to go all the way through to championships look to carry momentum on to the summer and the upcoming school year.

Interview: *The Tech* sits down with Julie Soriero

DAPER Director talked about her efforts to provide right environment for athletes

By Souparno Ghosh
SPORTS EDITOR

Although MIT is renowned for its technical prowess and innovation across the globe, it also possesses one of the most comprehensive sports programs in the country. The Department of Athletics, Physical Education and Recreation (DAPER) is largely responsible for making a multitude of sports programs available to MIT students.

As one can imagine, administering a top-notch athletics program in a school that is known challenge its students academically poses multiple challenges. For example, there are no sports scholarships to attract student-athletes to MIT.

The Tech spoke to Julie Soriero, director of DAPER as another successful year of MIT sports draws to a close. National championships were won and a berth to the College World Series was clinched to go along with numerous individual recognitions including the prestigious All-America and NCAA Elite 89.

Soriero spoke about how DAPER is always trying to provide the right environment for MIT student-athletes to thrive, how the coaches try to attract the best talent, the culture of appreciation or lack thereof of student-athletes’ achievements, what DAPER does to incentivize club and IM sports, and what it means to her to have been awarded the Athletics Director’s Award for the year 2014-15.

The Tech: You are the director of DAPER—what is your role?

Julie Soriero: My role is anything that has to do with athletics, physical education and recreation. I oversee all those areas. My job is to make sure that our students have the best experiences they can have as we continue to advance our programs.

The Tech: What part of your job do you like the most? What part of your job is most challenging?

Soriero: What I like most is the wonderful staff I get to work with. I truly am appreciative of the efforts of all our coaches and it is probably a tie with the terrific student athletes I get to interact with. I like our students very much.

Soriero, Page 14

Soriero notes increasing appreciation for student athletes; Football's 2014 success might contribute

Praised new hire charged with managing clubs, intramurals, and sports camps

Soriero, from Page 13

As for most challenging I would say is making sure we have right environment for everyone involved in DAPER to thrive. We have some facility challenges. We are hampered by limited space and huge demands. If you really want to provide a top-level experience for everybody involved you have to be able to give them what they need.

The Tech: How would you evaluate the 2015-16 academic year?

Soriero: I could not be more proud of our student athletes and the coaches. We had a record-breaking year in a lot of ways.

The Tech: Speaking of breaking records, what are your thoughts on the softball team's amazing run?

Soriero: I want to give a lot of credit to coach Jen Williams. She illustrates the difference a full-time coach can make versus a part-time coach. For a number of years she was employed as a coach on a part-time basis. For the past couple of seasons she has been here for a full-time basis, and look at the difference that has made to the softball program. Her dedication, knowledge of the game, and ability to motivate her players has really been outstanding. It shows with the results.

The Tech: MIT finished third in the nation in the Division III Learfield Director's Cup standingslast year. What makes MIT's athletic program so good?

Soriero: I think we have done really well the past 7 years. I think our teams are competing against better teams. Our coaches are attracting better athletes to come here. Success begets success. If you have been to the NCAA finals this year as returning members of the team you want to experience it once again.

The Tech: How difficult is recruiting good student-athletes, given the stringent academic requirements?

Soriero: Coaches recruit kids who are academically qualified to be at MIT. I think our coaches have to cast their net rather wide and they have to be a certain type of kid who is academically proficient but also wants to be a student-athlete.

The Tech: On the flip side, how difficult is it to recruit good coaches?

Soriero: There are a lot of people in this country that want to be involved in college athletics and want to coach. So from a general standpoint, no, it is not hard to find coaches.

The challenge is finding coaches that are good for MIT. So in the search process, we have got to identify coaches who understand he academic demand, that can attract the right kind of students, and understand that academics will always come first, and they need to be on board with that philosophy.

So to sum it up I think we have to be more selective about finding a good fit than just finding a good coach.

The Tech: How do you measure success of the program?

Soriero: The obvious answer is wins and losses but that is not how I measure it. I measure it by the looks of joy in the faces of the student-athletes' when they achieve something they have never achieved before. I try to measure the sense of accomplishment they experience that they express in the end-of-season reviews. I have been around athletes who are part of programs that have won a lot but are not necessarily happy. Here I think we have student athletes who are challenged a lot but are also happy.

The Tech: How is MIT so dominant is certain sports like track and field?

Soriero: When I look at cross-country and track and field it is such a numerically measured sport — distance and time. That's too easy of an explanation. I think those programs are successful because there is good coaching. There is a sense of history and that allows us to attract some of the better high-school competitors. Once again success begets success.

The Tech: Do you think there is a lack of appreciation of MIT student-athletes around the campus especially outside the community of student-athletes themselves and their circle of friends?

Soriero: I think we starting to see better appreciation of student-athletes as the awareness of how much being an athlete means to the students increase across the campus. Therefore as people realize how important that experience is for the student-athletes, there is a greater appreciation and greater tracking of what's happening. I think when Football went 10-0 in 2014, a lot of people tracked that.

I would go to the dentist and that person would know about the MIT football team's accomplishments.

The Tech: How can one explain the hype surrounding MIT's unbeaten football season given that there have been occasions on which other teams have been as successful if not more?

Soriero: First and foremost, I think there was such media attention because it was such a big turnaround from how the football team has been historically. We won one game with a blocked extra point with no time left on the clock, so it was kind of a charmed season, which made it more interesting.

Then it makes for a great story because you hear about all the selfish stories about division I athletes who are primarily looking to go pro. In contrast to that this was a refreshing story in the world of college athletics. It was a feel-good story.

We have kids doing mechanical engineering and nuclear engineering and are going to classes and excelling in academics and yet have such a successful season. That makes for a great story!

The Tech: Why are certain sports club sports and others varsity sports? Can a sport graduate from club to varsity?

Soriero: One of the things with varsity sports is that almost all of them have a national body that sets rules and governs the process of competitions. That is also true for some club sports, but for something like ultimate frisbee or taekwondo there is no NCAA division.

To go from club to varsity is unlikely to happen because back in 2009, we had to cut 7 varsity programs and although they have merged as clubs we had to cut them because of the mandated budget cuts. Now we are able to balance our budgets and maintain a solid budget.

The Tech: What does DAPER do to encourage club sports and IM sports participation?

Soriero: One of the best thing we have done is hire Jamie Drahos. Her job is to manage clubs, intramurals and sports camps. She comes from a background of recreation so she understands the demands and challenges. She has done a great job making the environment more safe, organized, and fiscally responsible for all those involved.

The Tech: You, yourself have won the Athletics Director Award. What does that recognition mean to you?

Soriero: It is always wonderful to be recognized by your peers. So I was very appreciative of that. I feel lucky to able to work with such a terrific staff. It speaks volumes about everyone that works here. It is recognition for everyone although I got to be the one on the stage collecting the plaque.

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